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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

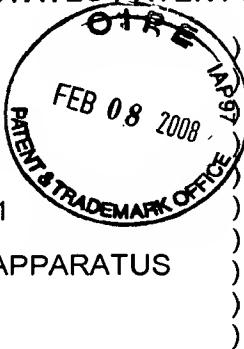
In re Patent Application of

Atsushi Ishikawa

Application No.: 09/996,786

Filing Date: November 30, 2001

Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS



Group Art Unit: 2625

Examiner: Charlotte M. Baker

Confirmation No.: 4572

SECOND  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a SECOND Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and accompanying form PTO-1449 for the above-identified patent application.

- No additional fee for submission of an IDS is required.
- The fee of \$ 180 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is also enclosed.
- A statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is also enclosed.
- A statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and the fee of \$ 180 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) are also enclosed.
- Charge \_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.
- A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for the fee due.
- Charge \$ 180 to credit card for the fee due. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

02/11/2008 SSANDARA 00000028 024800 09996786 BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC  
01 FC:1806 180.00 DA

Date February 8, 2008

By:   
Michael Britton  
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P.O. Box 1404  
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703 836 6620

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Atsushi Ishikawa

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) Group Art Unit: 2625

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SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the cited documents, other than the U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications, is enclosed.

These documents are cited in an Office Action dated October 2, 2007 in a corresponding Japanese application. A copy of the Office Action and an English translation thereof are being submitted herewith.

The documents are being submitted after a first Office Action on the merits but prior to the closing of prosecution, therefore under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is enclosed.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

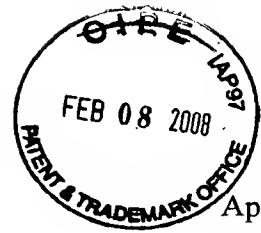
Date: February 8, 2008

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Michael Britton  
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File No. M1270200

Dispatch No. 44730  
Dispatch Date: October 2, 2007(Heisei 19)



### NOTIFICATION OF REASONS FOR REFUSAL

Application number	Patent Application No. 2000-366739
Drafting Date	September 3, 2007 (Heisei 19)
Examiner	Shinya Kauchi 9745 5V00
Attorneys	COSMOS PATENT OFFICE
Applied Provision	A29(2)

This application is rejected for the following reasons. If you have any opinions, you are allowed to submit your opinions within 60 days from the dispatch date of this notification.

#### Reason

The present invention as recited in the following claims of this application could easily have been made, prior to the filing of this application, by a person with ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains, on the basis of inventions disclosed in the below listed publications distributed in Japan or foreign country, or inventions which became available to the public via telecommunication lines, and therefore the applicant may not obtain a patent for the invention under the Patent Law Article 29(2)

Note (Please refer to List of Cited Documents with respect to cited references)

Claims 1 - 5

Cited References 1 - 4

Remarks:

The inventions as recited in the above claims could easily have been made by a person with ordinary skill in the art on the basis of inventions which were described in

the cited documents 1 - 4. The cited documents 1 - 4 disclose to specify N-level conversion parameters based on determination of whether a target pixel belongs to a dot area or determination of whether the target pixel belongs to a character area or a photograph area.

#### List of Cited Documents

1. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 8-223420
  2. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 5-167842
  3. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 5-284358
  4. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 5-307641
- 

#### Record of prior art search results

- Searched fields: IPC 7th edition

G04N1/40-409 H04N1/46 H04N1/60

- Prior art document

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 3-109868

The record of prior art search results does not constitute reason of refusal.